

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 17-26, with the following amended paragraph:

With reference now to FIGS. 8 and 9, the main deposition burner 26 incorporates three reactant feed tubes 40a,b,c, which generate three soot streams 42a,b,c. The center feed tube 40b is oriented radially relative to the axis of the rotating rod 22 and preform 20, and the lateral feed tubes 40a,c are oriented to diverge from the center feed tube 40b. When the preform is relatively small in diameter, most of the reactant is fed through the center tube 40b for the soot stream 42b. However, as the preform diameter grows, most of the chemicals are fed through the lateral feed tubes 40a,c. A valve 44 controls the delivery of the reactants to the feed tubes. The lateral soot streams 42a,c produced by the lateral feed tubes impinge quasi-tangentially on the deposition substrate, to reduce turbulence at the preform's deposition surface.